Last night's action follows an Agreement signed by Chad and Libya on 4 April, pursuant to a Judgment of the International Court of Justice settling a border dispute between the two countries. The two countries agreed that the withdrawal of Libyan administration and troops would begin today, under the supervision of a team of 25 Chadian officers, 25 Libyan officers and United Nations observers. The operations are due to end on 30 May, when the territory will be officially handed over to Chad.

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In another meeting last night, the Security Council demanded that all parties, and in particular the Bosnian Serbs, allow the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) unimpeded freedom of movement and refrain from any actions which might threaten the safety of UNPROFOR personnel.

In a statement read out by its President, Colin Keating (New Zealand), the Council condemned recent incidents in Bosnia and Herzegovina affecting the safety and freedom of movement of UNPROFOR personnel. Saying the incidents clearly violated binding resolutions, it warned those responsible of the serious consequences of their actions. The Council called on all parties to work closely with UNPROFOR, to cease all hostilities and to cooperate fully in efforts to achieve peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serbs continued to hold fifteen Canadian peace-keepers detained yesterday and a Dutch military observer was still missing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a United Nations spokesman said today. However, the Bosnian Serb tank which had confronted French peace-keepers yesterday had withdrawn. There was considerable fighting around Gorazde today, and Bosnian Serb forces made fresh advances to the east and south-east of the town. Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, met today with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Pale as efforts to resolve the situation continued.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is deploying emergency teams to help thousands of people fleeing the fighting in Rwanda. High Commissioner Sadako Ogata has authorized the release of $5 million from the emergency fund to airlift relief supplies to the region. Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) has three months worth of contingency stocks on hand and relief supplies are being assembled for Burundi and Tanzania. An 11-member emergency team is scheduled to depart from Geneva tomorrow for Zaire and another team is ready to go to Tanzania.

Meanwhile, concern for UNHCR's Rwandan staff members has increased after two were killed and two others seriously wounded in the continuing violence. Thirty-one local staff members were in the region before the fighting broke out and have since been distributing limited food stocks in the Butare and Kigali districts. A joint team from the UNHCR, the WFP and the United Nations

(more)

Development Programme (UNDP) is exploring the possibility of transporting food supplies into Butare, where the situation is fairly stable. Half the Burundi refugees in Rwanda are living in nine UNHCR camps in the region.

The United Nations Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) has continued to assist the evacuation of European and other foreign nationals, including African students from a United Nations-sponsored statistical school in Kigali. The Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Government of Rwanda have agreed not to interfere with the evacuation process, which is taking longer than expected, according to a United Nations spokesman. UNAMIR is also trying to provide humanitarian assitance to nearly 14,000 refugees seeking shelter at United Nations positions in the capital. Supplies have been airlifted into Kigali and the food and water situation has improved in the last two days.

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The Secretary-General's Special Mission to Afghanistan will tomorrow begin its third visit to that country with meetings in Mazar-i-Sharif, Sheberghan, Herat and Bamiyan. The head of the Mission, Mahmoud Mestiri, has already had meetings with President Rabbani, Prime Minister Hekmatyar and other leaders to discuss ways of ending the conflict in Afghanistan.

A Mission spokesman today expressed continuing concern about the fighting in Kabul, which resumed recently after a ten-day cease-fire, and elsewhere in the country. He stressed that the United Nations had not taken positions, or made any judgements, on the issues raised during its consultations.

The Special Mission has a mandate to hear the views of a wide range of Afghans on how the United Nations can best aid national reconciliation and reconstruction. It will continue its work in the coming weeks, and then present its findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General.

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